

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the residents of Maryland's Fourth Congressional District to say that the Affordable Care Act works. It has improved the health of thousands of men, women, and children in my district, and it has also reduced the level of uncompensated care in our community hospitals.

Repealing the Affordable Care Act will result in more uninsured patients, and more uninsured people will drive up costs for everyone. Community hospitals, such as MedStar Health and Anne Arundel Medical Center, will be forced to lay off doctors and nurses. Major medical centers, like John Hopkins and the University of Maryland, will be forced to cut back investments in research that we so desperately need to fight cancer, to treat diabetes, and to reduce infant mortality.

In the Fourth Congressional District, we are on the verge of establishing a new regional medical center that will both improve the quality of care throughout the National Capital Region and will create thousands of healthcare-related jobs in my district.

Mr. Speaker, repealing the Affordable Care Act is simply wrong. Hospital services will be reduced, local economies will be weakened, and job losses will follow. Let's protect our care and protect our jobs.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

In my home State of California, human trafficking is a notoriously large and dangerous industry, with over 300 reported cases of trafficking that involved children, teens, and young adults last year, including the very mysterious case that happened in November, that of Sherri Papini from Shasta County, who may or may not have been drawn into this. Fortunately, she was released on Thanksgiving Day. Indeed, the whole State is thankful for her release and that she didn't get caught in that horrible system.

We must do more to stop this human trafficking. That is why I am a proud supporter of H.R. 440, the SHAME Act, which was introduced by my colleague, Mr. POE of Texas. The bill makes public the names and pictures of criminals who have been convicted of buying sex from a minor or from a sex trafficking victim—stripping their anonymity and sentencing them to the public humiliation they deserve for their despicable acts.

I believe the SHAME Act will help to discourage participation in further human trafficking and will lead to a safer environment for our children in America. We must combat this now—

indeed, a very dangerous and immoral problem.

REPEAL OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, we are less than 2 weeks into the start of the new Congress and Republicans are already trying to make good on their central campaign promise to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Regrettably, it is a promise that will cause more than 30 million Americans and at least 86,000 Rhode Islanders to lose their health coverage. It will increase prescription drug costs for almost 16,000 Ocean State seniors, and it will cost Rhode Island an estimated 12,000 jobs in 2019, according to a recent report by The Commonwealth Fund and George Washington University.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans' promise to repeal the Affordable Care Act will have devastating consequences for healthcare providers, patients, families, and even employers. I have long said that ObamaCare isn't perfect, and I am willing to work in a bipartisan manner to improve it—a task we have tried to accomplish for years without Republican cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, the budget resolution the Republicans are jamming through Congress now is anything but bipartisan. I pledge to do everything in my power to fight their cynical attempts to revoke the health coverage of thousands of Rhode Islanders and of millions of Americans who need it and who depend on it.

IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF SECRETARY OF EDUCATION BETSY DEVOS

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, for too long, Washington has spent education dollars by building bureaucracy instead of by advancing opportunities for our children.

As a member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, I believe we must change the status quo and restore local control in education. We need someone to lead the Department of Education and to work with Congress and leave decisionmaking in the hands of parents and local communities, not in Washington. Betsy DeVos is that person.

She has dedicated her life to fighting for children in Michigan. She has been a tireless advocate for giving families choices and for ensuring our kids have access to quality education, including in public schools, regardless of their Zip Codes. She has a heart for children and will be a champion for every student in America.

I encourage the Senate to confirm her quickly so that, together, we can

get to work on ensuring a high-quality education is within reach for every child.

IN MEMORY OF THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LENO BRADBY

(Mr. McKEACHIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McKEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, I trespass on the time of the House today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Leno Bradby.

Mr. Bradby was a true leader of our community—a community in the Fourth Congressional District, known as Charles City County. He was an active member of his NAACP chapter, of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, as well as being a member of the Charles City County Democratic Committee.

Mr. Bradby dedicated his time to helping folks vote by supporting voter registration and voter education efforts in our district. He regularly volunteered at the polling locations and provided community members with transportation to cast their ballots. I know that his presence was greatly missed in a special election that was held within our district yesterday.

It is sad to see a devout and active member of our community leave us, but his legacy will live on with his fellow community members. This is a great loss to Charles City County.

IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF SECRETARY OF EDUCATION BETSY DEVOS

(Mr. HUIZENGA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support my friend Betsy DeVos, President-elect Trump's nominee to serve as the next Secretary for the Department of Education.

Betsy is a passionate and dedicated servant with a big heart for kids. She is a grandmother of five who has made it her life's mission to ensure that all children in America have access to a quality education no matter what their ZIP Codes are. Betsy has fought for children in classrooms to State capitals, and her efforts have given more kids hope for a brighter future. In our shared home State of Michigan, Betsy led the effort to pass the State's first charter school law. According to Stanford University, Michigan's charter school students now perform at a higher level than do their peers.

I witnessed Betsy's creativity and discipline firsthand when we served together on the board of the Compass College of Cinematic Arts, a Grand Rapids, Michigan-based film school and production company. We implemented rigorous standards that set Compass up for accreditation, and it now holds them accountable.

I know that Betsy is up to the challenge of ensuring our children are prepared to compete and thrive in our ever-changing world.

REPEAL OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Mr. AGUILAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, for over 6 years, we have watched House Republicans attack the Affordable Care Act. The law may not be perfect, but Republicans can't ignore the fact that the ACA has allowed 30 million Americans to access affordable health care.

Calls and emails have poured into my office from my constituents who are begging me to do everything in my power to protect their health care and to strengthen the ACA. Earlier this week I received an email from Brian in San Bernardino, who shared that his wife didn't have insurance before the ACA. When the law went into effect, she had a physical, whereby doctors discovered she had ovarian cancer. It was caught early and treated, and now she is living healthy in San Bernardino. If she had not obtained health insurance through the ACA, she wouldn't have had a preventative screening, which saved her life.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot strip 30 million people of their health care. We cannot look people in the eyes and say we are doing everything we can to help them if we allow insurance companies to discriminate against them and to cap their coverage. I will not compromise their health care or our future, and neither should you.

IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF SECRETARY OF EDUCATION BETSY DEVOS

(Mr. MOOLENAAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the nomination of Betsy DeVos, of my home State of Michigan, to be the next Secretary of Education.

She shares our belief that all children should have the opportunity to learn in a world-class environment and that they, along with their parents, should be able to choose the schools that are best for them. In Michigan, she has improved learning opportunities for students from low-income backgrounds all across the State. She knows that local control plays a key role in an educator's ability to tailor lesson plans that best provide the education for our students.

For decades, Betsy DeVos has worked tirelessly on education issues, and she has been a champion for parents and students. As a parent of six children who have attended public schools, I am confident that she will do an outstanding job as our next Secretary of Education.

REPEAL OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, this House, the people's House, will vote to take the first step in a blindly ideological crusade to break our entire healthcare system and rip health insurance away from more than 20 million Americans.

Repeal would cripple our Nation's hospitals and create a \$723 million budget shortfall in my congressional district alone, resulting in countless job losses across our great country. Repeal would return everyone to the days of big insurance companies and their denying of needed care due to annual and lifetime limits on coverage. Repeal would mean higher costs for individuals who seek routine preventative care, like mammograms or birth control.

This is not what the people want. People are sick and tired of Republicans playing political games with their health care. The Affordable Care Act is not perfect. Deductibles, out-of-pocket costs, and prescription drug prices are still too high for many working families. People are frustrated when they are faced with narrow networks or surprise medical bills.

Unfortunately, these are not the problems that Republicans are focused on fixing. In fact, the only problem Republicans seem to be trying to solve is that too many people have health insurance. Republicans want to roll back the progress that has been made and create a healthcare system that eliminates the guarantees of affordable coverage, by which families will face even higher deductibles and copays—a concept they euphemistically call “skin in the game,” and those with preexisting conditions, including expectant mothers, would again face a closed door instead of care.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week we observed National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, and we continue to shine a light on this modern form of slavery. As a part of that effort, I am cosponsoring the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act, which is the next step in helping the victims of human trafficking.

The heinous practice of human trafficking exploits young girls and boys. These victims are oftentimes our most vulnerable and are taken advantage of by those with no regard for their well-being. The Trafficking Survivors Relief Act will allow victims to petition courts to have their criminal records cleared of nonviolent offenses that

were committed as a direct result of being trapped in human trafficking. It is a very important step, Mr. Speaker, in helping these individuals get the opportunity to return to living fulfilling lives on their own terms and getting the fresh start that they deserve.

No man, woman, girl, or boy should ever be subjected to sex trafficking. We must remain vigilant in our fight against this crime and ensure that the victims receive the support and resources they need because, together, we can stop human trafficking.

REPEAL OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Mr. CARBAJAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the first time as a Member of Congress to discuss an issue that is at the forefront of the American conscience and is one that I care deeply about: protecting and improving the Affordable Care Act.

Today, over 45,000 of my constituents have access to reliable, affordable healthcare coverage thanks to the Affordable Care Act. These are seniors who would otherwise be unable to afford their prescription drugs. These are working families who no longer have to worry about being one illness away from bankruptcy. These are children who have been born with birth defects who would have previously been denied coverage for having a preexisting condition or reached their lifetime limits before they even started school.

What concerns me most is this effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act without putting forth any sort of replacement. This will have real consequences for American families, and it is simply reckless governance. We cannot play politics with 20 million American lives who depend on the Affordable Care Act for access to quality, affordable health care. This is not a game.

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WSAV GENERAL MANAGER RETIRING

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Deb Thompson, who recently retired as general manager of WSAV News Station in Savannah, Georgia.

Ms. Thompson began working with WSAV in 2005. She moved to Savannah from Dallas, Texas, and started her outstanding career bringing news to our local community as a sales manager for the station.

Her dedication and passion for the Savannah community made her a perfect fit for the job, and she quickly moved to general manager of WSAV in 2009. An example of this passion was